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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

China

SUBJECT

Port Information: Dairen

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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- The following information is based on personal observations
- Alphabetical Designators In connection with information contained herein, specific points of interest are noted and referred to in this report by the following alphabetical designators:

- Pilot Boarded on arrival
- Pilot Discharged on departure
- Berth
- Wooden buildings on pier
- Standard gauge railroad tracks
- International Seamen's Club
- Basin used by Soviet vessels

- Soviet merchant ship
- Stacked lumber and logs
- Stalin Drive

- Approach Vessel arrived in ballast and loaded 5200 metric tons soybeans. Vessel notified agent of ETA in advance of arrival, arrived off entrance to port 230624H and anchored in the outer anchorage to the port six minutes later to await pilot. Pilot boarded vessel from a motor launch at position labeled designator A at 231300H. Pilot appeared to be about 60 years of age, spoke good English and provided good service in conducting the vessel to her berth. The same pilot boarded the vessel at 272013H, at position labeled designator B, on vessel's departure and was discharged about 45 minutes later. During period of vessel's call, the weather was cold with snow and ice. Highest temperature recorded during the call was 39°F and the lowest 28°F.
- Anchorage Vessel anchored in Quarantine Anchorage at position labeled designator A on arrival to await pilot.

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NAVY review

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5. Harbor [] no obstructions in harbor. However, the accuracy of charted channels is questionable due to the prohibition on taking soundings. [] buoys are not in accordance with the chart and pilot stated buoys are changed frequently. When asked to explain deviations from chart, pilot refused explaining he was not allowed to give any information. Pilot further explained he was responsible for piloting ships in and out of harbor and that he was capable of doing so.
6. Controls Vessel completed mooring at her berth, labeled designator C, at 231450H. Control party boarded vessel five minutes later at berth and remained aboard approximately three hours. Boarding party consisted of about 15 to 20 persons, both male and female. Some members of search party carried sidearms and machine guns. Radio equipment, guns, ammunition, cameras, flares, sextant, and personal effects were placed under seal. Provisions and binoculars were not sealed. Each crew member was required to turn in his money to the master for counting by the search party at this time and again prior to the ship's departure from Dairen. The crew was mustered in the galley while a very thorough search of the ship was made. A surveillance guard of two Chinese dressed in army uniforms and carrying small machine guns was stationed at the gangway. [] A boarding party reboarded the vessel on 27 Jan 56 just prior to the ship's departure and conducted another search which lasted about three hours. Vessel departed Dairen 272100H Jan 56.
7. Harbor Craft One small motor tug [] assisted the vessel in berthing. An unknown number of tugs, but no other harbor craft, were observed in the harbor.
8. Berth Vessel moored 231450H at berth, labeled designator C, alongside Pier No 3 at Berth 27. [] [] standard gauge railway tracks on apron between buildings and edge of pier, at position labeled designator E. New railway cars of 40 to 50 metric tons capacity were observed on these tracks. Cargo was loaded partially from open pier and partially from railway cars. Two old cranes of unknown make and model with a capacity of about 1½ to two tons were observed on track being used sparingly. Commencing at 240300H vessel lifted 5200 metric tons soybeans - five thousand tons bulk, the balance in bags. Five gangs of five persons each working three shifts of eight hours duration were used. It was reported gangs worked with seemingly good proficiency. Vessel's equipment and metal drums of about two tons capacity furnished by shipper were used to load vessel. Two cranes mentioned above were used only one day of the loading period. Loading was completed 271620H. No supplies were taken on by vessel, but ship did receive water for both drinking and boiler use of good quality by hose from the dock. Very few lights were observed on the pier or in town. Sewerage was dumped in the harbor and garbage dumped at sea.
9. Construction [] no new construction in progress in the harbor area.
10. Naval Vessels Funnels and masts of 12 or more Soviet ships were observed in area labeled designator G. [] ships to include tankers, floating drydocks, and small Navy ships. No Soviets were sighted ashore but reports indicated that these ships were Soviet-manned.
11. []

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[redacted] a Soviet freighter depart from berth labeled designator K on 23 Jan 56. [redacted] this vessel had been built in Germany. [redacted]

12. Shore Activities The crew of the vessel [redacted] was allowed ashore with instructions to return to the ship by 2400 hours. Approximately half of the crew took advantage of this liberty. Each man was given a shore pass written in Chinese which he was required to present with his passport to go ashore and return to the ship. Men did not have money to make purchases and were restricted to the business area of town. It had been suggested to the men to visit the International Seamen's Club, labeled designator F. [redacted] no houses of prostitution [redacted] available in Dairen to seamen.

13. Miscellaneous [redacted] lumber and logs about 12 feet long piled high on end and west side of pier, position labeled designator L on chart, being unloaded from flat cars by hand. Approximately 10 or 12 persons were used to unload one log. [redacted] aforementioned crane being used only one day unloading these logs during his stay in the port. [redacted] in Dairen prior to the war when many nice restaurants and places of entertainment were available. [redacted] all these places are closed now. Most of the buildings in the area are old but seem to be in good condition. No new construction was observed. [redacted] people are sullen and afraid. Persons encountered would speak only when spoken to and then would only discuss business. A young woman and an older man companion boarded the vessel soon after the vessel was berthed and passed out post cards bearing name and address of the International Seamen's Club at 115 Stalin Drive, labeled designator F. The woman spoke very good English and extended invitation to attend free movies at the Club and enjoy large library and reading room which contained magazines, books, papers, etc. [redacted] all the books, papers, etc, were Communist propaganda. [redacted] the Club was lined with large photographs of leading Communists including Stalin. One of the booklets available was Life of the Workers in New China. [redacted]

[redacted] food was plentiful but there was no variety or choice. [redacted] there had been some talk that Red China and Nationalist China would reunite [redacted] that Red China would not continue to follow the dictates of the USSR, but would follow the pattern set by Yugoslavia. [redacted] there is some feeling that China has a superior brand of Communism compared to the USSR. [redacted] undetermined number of jet fighters flying at high altitudes overhead daily.

[redacted] Numerous trains were observed in the port which indicated that the chart used is fairly accurate with respect to railroad tracks. [redacted] some of the railway cars were US and Japanese built, and all appeared to be in good repair. [redacted] road [redacted] Yamagata Dori, a hard-surfaced asphalt road, labeled designator M. [redacted] name Yamagata Dori has been changed to Stalin Drive. [redacted] the city was fairly clean and [redacted] the pier was maintained very clean by a daily sweeping detail of about 20 persons. This detail also made a careful search to recover any beans that had been spilled while loading.

[redacted] Comment [redacted] Although the possibility of a Glen Line freighter being in the port may be true, it could not be verified in publications held by this office. [redacted]

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